

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7296

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER KSC CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

REF: PRAGUE 1068

1. RUMORS IN PRAGUE IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND AMONG WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES HAVE IT THAT THE NEXT KSC CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 28-29. RUDE PRAVO NOVEMBER 20 CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE VLADISLAV HALL AND OLD PALACE IN THE PRAGUE CASTLE, TRADITIONAL PLENUM VENUE, ARE TO BE CLOSED FROM NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 2, A GOOD INDICATION THAT RUMORS ARE CORRECT. MOST BETS HERE ARE THAT PLENUM'S MAIN CONCERN WILL BE BEEFING UP PARTY ORGANIZATION TO DIRECT EFFORTS AT OVERCOMING MANAGERIAL/WORKER SLUGGISHNESS AND INEPTITUDE IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. PLENUM ALSO MAY COME UP WITH INTERIM SOLUTIONS TO LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT WAIT FOR THE PROMULGATION NEXT YEAR OF THE 1976-80 PLAN.

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS A CONCEIVABLE VENUE FOR SORTING OUT SUCCESSION WHEN AILING CSSR PRESIDENT SVOBODA LEAVES THE SCENE, PLENUM IT IS PROBABLY TOO BROADBASED A FORUM FOR INNER-PARTY DEBATE ON THIS VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE. LAST MAY, WHEN SVOBODA WAS THOUGHT BY EVERYBODY TO BE NEAR DEATH, CC PLENUM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AVOIDED MATTER LIKE THE PLAGUE. HOWEVER, NEXT

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WEEK'S GATHERING MAY OCCASION HIGH-LEVEL BACK ROOM POLITICKING

OVER WHO GOES WHERE AFTER SVOBODA DIES. SIMILAR IN-FIGHTING
IS THOUGHT HAVE MARKED THE MAY PLENUM. IT WAS ALLEGEDLY CLI-
MAXED BY A BITTER, ALL NIGHT AFFAIR LIMITED MOSTLY TO PRESIDUM
MEMBERS AFTER THEY FINISHED UP THE LAST PLENARY SESSION. THIS
WAS THE MOMENT, ACCORDING TO HUSAK-AS-CHAIRMAN-AND-PRESIDENT
THEORISTS FOR INSTANCE, WHEN THE SUCCESSION MATTER WAS SETTLED,
AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT PARTY CONGRESS. WITH DECISIONS TAKEN LAST
MAY PERHAPS UNDONE BY SVOBODA'S TENACIOUS GRIP ON LIFE, THERE
MAY BE ANOTHER ROUND OF POLITICKING IN STORE FOR THE BOYS IN THE
BACK ROOM.
PERRY

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